

Bridgeport Evening Farmer

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PRICE TWO CENTS

SPROTT, DRIVER OF DEATH CAR, NAMED IN SUIT

Widower Institutes \$10,000 Action for Damages Against Society Man

ALLEGES DRIVER WAS NEGLIGENT
Sprott, Blinded By Trolley Headlight, Fatally Injured Young Matron

Radcliffe E. Sprott, prominent society man and secretary and treasurer of the Gas Appliance Exchange, has been sued for \$10,000 by Charles E. Johnson, administrator on the estate of Florence E. Johnson, who was struck and killed by Sprott's automobile May 17 last.

A paper filed today in the civil superior court it is stated that on the night of the accident Mrs. Johnson and a friend were walking along a road in Southport. As they near the Round House switch, Sprott's machine approached from the rear and hit Mrs. Johnson. She was so badly injured that she died a few minutes after she had been removed to a nearby house.

It is alleged that Sprott was guilty of negligence because he did not exercise due care in driving his car and did not give warning of his approach. The suit is returnable to the March term.

Coroner Phelan conducted an investigation into Mrs. Johnson's death, and shortly after his findings, Sprott was arrested on a bench warrant charging manslaughter. He was held for the criminal superior court and DeVer E. Warner, on his bond, later State's Attorney Cummings nolle prosequit the case. Sprott claimed he was not responsible for the fatality because the headlight of a trolley car blinding him prevented him from seeing the couple in the road.

INSURANCE FRAUD CASES NOW GO TO SUPERIOR COURT

Two Men Under Charges Expect to Furnish Bail of \$500 Each

Anton Larmarino and Antonio Demar, arrested last week in connection with a Grand street fire as a result of which the state police allege that an attempt was made to defraud insurance companies, were today arraigned in the city court. Larmarino was defended by Attorney John J. Phelan and Demar by Attorney John J. Collins. Both lawyers entered a demurrer which was overruled by Judge Coughlin who bound them over to the Superior court under bonds of \$500 each which it is expected will be furnished tonight.

It is alleged on behalf of the prisoners that Mrs. Larmarino first owned the entire furniture and later sold a part to the others. She had insured the full amount and the other claiming not to know this fact insured their portions. The state police contend that no bills of sale were ever issued and that the contention is merely a pretext to escape punishment.

The attempt to prove a case of arson against the prisoners has been dropped.

Distiller Arrested On Charge of Selling Brandy Illegally

Charles A. Davis, who with his brother is a well known distiller of spirituous liquors licensed by the government in the Trumbull district, was today placed under arrest by Agent Brown charged with selling without a license. Davis was captured in the West End today following a long search by the police for the source of gallons of older brandy which has been dispensed without a city license among Hungarian and Polish families.

When taken, it is alleged, he was in the act of selling a half-gallon jug of the liquor and in his wagon standing at the curb the police secured 20 half-gallon jugs filled with brandy. Information as to the person to whom the liquor was being sold is withheld today while further evidence is collected.

When arraigned at police headquarters Davis gave his address as 259 Tal and Brook avenue, age 42, and stated that he believed himself fully within his rights of dispensing the liquor in bulk. The police contend that by holding a government distillery license he is not permitted to peddle from house to house though he is permitted to ship the goods under the name of Agent Brown. The case will be heard in court on Monday.

NONE CLAIMS BODY OF MYSTERIOUS SUICIDE

With the issuance of a death certificate today by Medical Examiner Samuel M. Garlick under the name of Joseph Slobosky, alias "Joseph Salasewsky" and the burial of the body in the pauper graveyard at Lakeview home, the mystery surrounding the death of the man by carbolic poisoning in Joseph Lasko's saloon on Hallett street, now being investigated by the coroner technically is closed.

In the certificate issued today by the medical examiner the primary cause of death is given as "phenol poisoning" and the contributory cause "mental aberration."

WILSON WELCOMES BRIDGEPORTERS AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Washington, Feb. 12.—Among the callers upon the President today were former Alderman James J. Conlin and Neil M. Mairhead of Bridgeport. In their party were Edward D. Murray of New London, W. S. Bailey of Meriden, and M. J. Dahlin of Stratford.

The party is here attending the annual convention of House Painters and Decorators' International union, of which all are members.

Mr. Conlin gave a dinner party in honor of Lawrence J. Gill of the Department of Commerce, who will leave Washington shortly to supervise the taking of the manufacturers' census in Fairfield county.

WRECK VICTIM SUES CONN. CO. FOR \$30,000

Mrs. Hawley Permanently Disabled As Result of Woodmont Crash

Claiming that she sustained injuries in a trolley car collision which will probably incapacitate her for life, Mrs. Alice Van Zandt Hawley has brought suit for \$30,000 against the Connecticut Co. City Sheriff Abriola today attached the power house of the Connecticut Co. in Seaview avenue.

Mrs. Hawley claims that she was riding on a trolley car on Sept. 8, 1914, when it was in collision with another car at Woodmont. At that time she sustained injuries to her spine, back and legs which have since caused chronic neuritis. She has suffered from hysteria and in consequence had to undergo an operation which endangered her life and after which she was on the verge of death for many months.

Mrs. Hawley claims that since the accident she has been unable to do housework and is unable to follow her employment as a bookkeeper at which she earned \$20 per week. She claims that she has been obliged to engage a servant to do her housework and that she probably will never be able to work again. She claims to have expended \$1,250 for medical and surgical attendance.

Mrs. Hawley is the wife of Charles Raymond Hawley and resides in Central avenue.

Attorney Spottwood Bowers is counsel for Mrs. Hawley and has drawn the papers in the suit.

MURDER OF PRIEST Baffles Police; CAN'T FIND CLUE

New Britain, Feb. 12.—The police were back to the starting point again today in their search for clues to the murders of Rev. Father Zebrus and his housekeeper, earlier in the week, the clues which promised results last night disappearing as so many have done since the tragedy.

In every direction the search is branching out but there has as yet been nothing tangible.

Attention was chiefly directed to the financial affairs of Father Zebrus today when Charles L. Ellinger, of Northampton, Mass., appeared in court and asked for letters of administration on the estate in behalf of the heirs of the priest who was named as two brothers, residents in Russian Lithuania, and three nephews and two nieces who live in this country. The court took no action further than to fix next Saturday as the time for the hearing on the petition.

The excitement over the murders is lessening although among the Lithuanians it is still the only topic of discussion. Many disagreements have occurred as the results of arguments. In court today three young men of this nationality were fined for breach of the peace. It was shown that they got drunk yesterday went to a theatre and while there became involved in an argument and fight and were arrested. Their arrest followed. Attention was drawn to the incident as the men were recriminatory in their verbal attacks accusing each other of knowing something about the murders. The police, however, had the cases disposed of as breaches of the peace.

MANUFACTORY PAYS CITY \$1,300 FOR INTEREST ON TAXES

Tax Collector Howard J. Smith today received a check for \$1,227.80 for the back taxes of a large manufactory here with accrued interest of \$1,300. The collector would not divulge the name of the corporation who made the payment. The collector's office will remain open until 5 o'clock each night this month in order to give all workmen an opportunity to pay their personal taxes. Most of those who paid to-day were of foreign birth. Collector Smith, City Clerk Robinson and Assistant Town Clerk Winton made a trip to New Haven Thursday and conferred with the tax collector there regarding the method by which the Elm City taxes are gathered.

SWINDLING GANG FOUND VICTIMS APLENTY HERE

Police Busy Investigating Activities of Confidence In City

SINGER SECURITIES THIEF ACTIVE HERE?

Bridgeport Dupes Engage Counsel to Keep Their Identity Secret

The police of this city are today investigating for the New York police cases that may result in disclosing one of the greatest bands of swindlers that have ever operated in the United States, and may possibly disclose facts that will lead to a further upheaval of the New York police department similar to that occasioned by the famous Rosenthal murder case.

It has already been disclosed to the district attorney of New York that Bridgeporters were swindled by this gang through the medium of a clairvoyance game to the tune of \$2,000 in one operation, though so secretly have the names been guarded that the victims here employed lawyers to appear for them in New York and to keep their identity secret.

On Wednesday before Justice Weeks in the criminal branch of the Supreme court, Richard J. Hartman, former president of the Singer Sewing Machine Company of this city, in his address to the jury assistant district attorney, Weller, said to the jury: "Instead of showing his victim the sights and grabbing the satchel when he had been duped, he was told to go home and wait for the money."

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Mr. Hartman is alleged to have met Mrs. Mackenzie at a dance and to have got possession of the Singer sewing machine. Even after they had been disposed of he regularly paid her dividends and she was unaware that they had been disposed of.

According to information available in police and other circles here today it is believed that the New York authorities, through the arrest and conviction of Hartman, have unearthed even greater plots, for it has been shown that both a man and woman in this city were mulcted by part of the same gang to the tune of \$2,000, and with another specific case in Boston where a woman had been defrauded of \$7,000 the New York authorities where a woman had been defrauded of nearly a million dollars through the New York case.

With the complaint of Mrs. Mackenzie in the possession of the district attorney's office, Attorney Weller was recently in Bridgeport and while unable to secure concrete evidence, he himself has been arrested recently in Toledo and returned to New York, he with the testimony of Frederick B. Fallon, of the law firm of Fallon & Greenstein, who are said to have been retained by the clients here whose names are not disclosed to-day.

Attorney Fallon, arrested today by a reporter for the Farmer, stated: "It is true that I was called twice before the New York district attorney in this matter, but I am not at liberty to divulge any of the details of the band's operations here, nor can I state what evidence I gave in relation to other cases that may later be disclosed."

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L. J. GILL TO BE IN CHARGE OF COUNTY CENSUS

Begins Work Next Week and Will Have Office in Federal Building

(Special to The Farmer.)
Washington, Feb. 12.—Lawrence J. Gill has been designated supervisor of the census of manufacturers for Fairfield county, which is now underway. He will have an office in the Federal building at Bridgeport, and will leave this city to begin his duties sometime next week.

The census of manufacturers is taken every five years. It is designated to show the industrial condition of the country and is compiled from information furnished by individual manufacturing concerns. The information obtained is confidential, and is used in an assembled form, to show the broad facts relating to manufacturing as a whole.

Mr. Gill has had a special training for the work in the Census Bureau, and has been selected from a large number for this work, owing to the superior examination he passed, as a condition of the appointment.

CUNARD OFFICIALS CAN'T TELL IF OUR FLAG WILL BE USED

New York, Feb. 12.—The possibility that the Cunard liner Orduna, due to leave this port today for Liverpool, might again fly the American flag upon reaching the Irish sea, as she did for several hours after leaving Queens-town on her last voyage westward, was discussed in maritime circles here today, but no statement was made by any of the line's officials.

"We cannot talk," said one of the officials. "We do not know what precautions, if any, will be taken by the Orduna and if we did know we could not tell."

The Orduna should reach the Irish sea under ordinary sailing conditions, from three to five days after February 18, the time set by the German government for making effective the war area British waters. Ten days is usually required by the Orduna to make the trip direct from here to Liverpool. This would place her in Liverpool Tuesday, February 23.

BULGON DROPS CHARGE AGAINST WIFE'S SLEUTHS

Manufacturer Shuns Continuance of Notoriety of Wife's Unexpected Visit

Charges of breach of the peace preferred in the city court against Mrs. May Budlong, wife of Herbert Budlong, assistant manager of the American Graphophone Co. plant in this city, and also against two detectives employed by her to secure evidence for divorce against her husband was dropped today by the city court. It is asserted that the case was nolle prosequit on recommendation of Prosecutor DeLaney because those who had brought the complaint refused to press it further on account of the publicity the affair had attracted.

Attorney Klein, representing Mrs. Budlong in court today, declared that he did not think from the start that there was sufficient evidence upon which to hold Mrs. Budlong and her detectives, Eugene Zanelli and Benjamin Shiner, of New Haven.

The trio were arrested on the night of February 10 after Mrs. Budlong and the detectives had secured entrance to the home of Mrs. Mabel Clouse, 216 Fairview avenue, where they went to secure evidence upon which a basis for divorce. Mrs. Budlong, who appeared in court attired in the height of fashion, was elated at the dropping of the charges and left for the home of her father, William A. Budlong, whom she resides at 373 Arctic street.

RECORD MASONRY WORK IN FACTORY FOR R.A.-U.M.C. CO.

Other Activities In Local Building Circles—Dwellings to Be Erected

The masonry work on the fourth of a group of six factory buildings to be erected by the Parady Construction company for the Remington Arms-U. M. C. Co. was finished last evening. The building is located at Pauline and Helen streets, the site of the old car barn, and is to be used as a paper factory. The structure is 240 feet long by 50 feet wide and is four and a half stories in height. It is steel framed and has the best of quality of New Haven steel used in its construction. The masons started work on the foundation one week ago today and the bricklayers laid the last brick at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon, making a total of 44 working hours used in the course of constructing the building. There were 110 bricklayers and masons engaged in the work and they were laid off last night. T. L. Gellert was the foreman of the bricklayers and the inside work yet to be done by the carpenters will be under the direction of Superintendent C. A. Schoen.

There is a well founded rumor prevalent in local building circles today that the company is to have at least three more additional buildings erected in the course of another month.

Some of the departments are working day and night making ammunition for the European belligerents and when the new additions are ready for occupancy it will mean the hiring of probably eight or nine hundred more employees.

Permits for the extension of United Illuminating Co. power house in Church street and for the new bank building which the Bridgeport Trust Co. will erect in State street were granted by the building commission last night. The aggregate cost of the work will be \$90,000.

T. J. McNamara is to erect a three story store building and apartment house at Noble and Berkshire avenues.

Schwartz Bros. are building a two-family house at North avenue for Mary O'Neil.

Work has begun on a two-family house in Harlem avenue for Soargo & Winter.

John Schwing is soon to erect a two-family house in Wood avenue. The Old Farmer's Almanac should run the heavenly bodies more systematically.

GERMANY WILL CARRY OUT SUBMARINE POLICY; HOLDS WARNING HAS BEEN AMPLE

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S WAR NEWS

The persistent German attack in the Argonne has gained further ground, the Berlin war office announced to-day. More than half a mile of French positions are said to have been won. There has been further fighting in the Vosges, also, and the Berlin official report states that all attacks of the allies were repulsed. The French communication gives few details of yesterday's fighting, laying particular stress upon heavy artillery contests. The German office states that on the western front was found artillery ammunition "which doubtless originated in American factories."

Regrettable damage to the civil population was caused, it is said in Berlin, by the British aeroplane raid over Belgium but only slight losses were sustained by the Germans. Berlin already is celebrating the striking victory said to have been won over the Russians in East Prussia and further successes are reported in today's official report. It is stated that in northern Poland as well as East Prussia the Russian attacks have failed and that the Germans have been uniformly successful.

Heavy fighting is in progress once more in the Argonne and the Vosges which have now become the most bitterly contested sections of the western battle front. Otherwise the opposition armies are virtually at a standstill. The deadlock in the west is so complete that the initiative on land and sea has been left largely to the comparatively new developments in the war—the submarine and the aeroplane. The activity of German submarines is believed to have been responsible for the sinking or injury of three more merchantmen.

Great Britain's spectacular aeroplane raid, her reply to this menace, was directed at the German submarine bases. The German war office states that in the east is the German victory in East Prussia which, according to Berlin reports, was an imposing one. It is assumed in Germany in celebration of the occurrence, while in that region is ended but it is not yet clear to what extent the conduct of the campaign will be affected.

In the Carpathians the battles for possession of the passes are still undecided. A German despatch states that the Austrians have suffered heavily from Russian bayonet attacks in Dukla Pass.

OFFICIAL REPORTS ON THE WAR

GERMAN
Berlin, Feb. 12.—The official statement issued today by the German army headquarters says: "In the western theatre of the war, enemy aviators again dropped bombs on the coast as they also did yesterday (Thursday). The bombs caused considerable damage to the civil population, while from the military point of view we suffered only slight losses. On the extreme western front artillery ammunition was found which doubtless originated in American factories."

"The number of prisoners taken during the attacks which were repulsed yesterday to the west of Souain was increased today by four officers and 478 men. Before our front 200 of the enemy's men were found killed while our losses in these engagements in killed and injured amounted to 30 men."

"In the eastern theatre of the war: On both sides of the East Prussian frontier our operations are everywhere progressing successfully. Whenever the enemy attempts to resist up his opposition is quickly broken."

"In Poland: On the right bank of the Vistula our attacking troops crossed the lower Sava and are proceeding in the direction of Racow."

BERLIN TO ANSWER U. S. NOTE ON COMMERCE AT EARLY DATE

Washington, Feb. 12.—Administration officials had unofficial information today of the presentation of the American note to the German government concerning the German sea war zone proclamation. The communication was delivered to the German foreign secretary last night by Ambassador Gerard at Berlin.

The unofficial advice were to the effect that officials of the German government declined for the present to comment on the note except to say that it was couched in friendly language. It was suggested that the German reply which would be made in due course probably would contain a statement that Americans aboard British ships will be equally protected by the home government as those on board American ships.

Attitude in London
London, Feb. 12.—That the government will have no difficulty in giving a satisfactory reply to the American note on the use of the American flag by British merchantmen is the contention of the afternoon papers of London which variously express the opinion that a neutral flag will be used by British vessels only as an intimation to German warships that there are neutral passengers and goods aboard.

The Pall Mall Gazette attaches "immense significance" to the phrase in the American note to Germany "or cause the death of American citizens" as meaning that Americans aboard British ships will be equally protected by the home government as those on board American ships.

SENATE LEADERS STRIVE TO CLOSE SHIPPING DEBATE

Consider Cloture Rule, While House Gets Busy With a Substitute Bill

Washington, Feb. 12.—Democrats of the Senate met in conference early today to consider the advisability of continuing the efforts for a cloture rule to force an end to the continued Republican filibuster against the administration ship purchase bill or of offering up and returning to a direct contest for the measure. The bill, blocked by Republican opposition, had been displaced as the unfinished business before the Senate. Decision to hold a party conference resulted from the Republican filibuster to the cloture rule which was taken up in the Senate yesterday.

While Senate Democrats were meeting, administration leaders of the House were going ahead with the work of drafting a compromise ship-

Berlin Press, Commenting on American Note, Says Proclamation of War Zone Should Keep Military Area Free From Merchant Ships of Neutrals.

Great Victory In East Prussia Brings Much Rejoicing In Berlin—British Airship Raid Does Little Military Damage, Is Official German Report.

London, Feb. 12.—The retirement of the Russian forces in East Prussia and Great Britain's air raid on the coast of Belgium appear to-day as the biggest factors in the military situation. On the other hand the diplomatic field would seem to be dominated by the American note to Great Britain and Germany, especially to Germany where the newspapers and the public, according to news despatches reaching here from Berlin, are insisting, in spite of Washington's protest and in spite of the consequences, that the German submarine policy must be pursued relentlessly.

The gist of German opinion, as it has been thus far transmitted to London, would appear to be that neutral powers have been sufficiently warned to keep out of the military area and inasmuch as Germany is facing starvation at the hands of Great Britain there is no other course for her to pursue.

All Claims Dismissed
Like all other important encounters in the eastern arena of the war, the claims of the opposing sides as to the strategic importance of the German advance into East Prussia. The Germans are hailing it as a great victory and Berlin is decorated with flags in celebration of the occurrence, while the Russian warships are deliberately re-aligning their forces in their own territory supported by their own forts and that the decisive conflict is yet to come.

The battling in the Carpathians is growing on the snow but the information from this field of activities is scant and indications reaching London are still of the see-sawing action, both sides sustaining enormous losses.

Further to the south the Austrians contend that they are continuing their advance into Bukovina. Military experts in London are of the opinion that the Carpathian front still remains an area of prime importance in the east where a decisive victory by either side would force the abandonment by the other of territory in East Prussia or Poland.

May Use Aeroplanes
The fact that a British air raid in such force as was evidenced in the aerial expedition of yesterday has carried out successfully over the German coast in the direction of Belgium, London to indicate that such aerial activities against the German submarine bases promises at the time when the German policy of blockade was announced in the past. The British has many new aeroplanes under construction and many new pilots in training and it is now predicted that yesterday's raid was only a forerunner of more extensive visitations.

Several British shipowners are offering prizes of \$5,000 to any merchant ship which sinks a German submarine.

Emperor William is still on the East Prussian front, according to the latest advice reaching London, but Emperor Nicholas has just made a visit to Sebastopol where the inspection of Russian warships in port and made an address to the assembled sailors.

Kaiser Outlines New Plan to Take Warsaw

London, Feb. 12.—Emperor William received Field Marshal Von Hindenburg on the eastern battle front on Friday, and it was decided to make another dash for Warsaw next week, according to a despatch from Amsterdam to the Exchange Telegraph Company.

The German Emperor, the message is said to be anxious that the Polish capital be taken before the next meeting of the Reichstag in order to induce the House to vote a new war loan without opposition.

AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION DISCUSSES LEGISLATION

New Haven, Feb. 12.—Automobile legislation was under discussion at the meeting of the directors of the Connecticut Automobile Association here today. Copies of the numerous bills now before committees at the capitol were submitted by C. M. Robinson who represents the Goods Road Association and the Automobile Association and analysis of these were made.

President C. H. Coles, of Middletown, presided. Special attention was directed to the bill concerning registration of vehicles, the proposed increase in fees, the headlight bills and to those calling for automobile inspection. Opposition to many bills was voiced. But no definite action will be taken until a bill has been considered.

A committee will probably arrange to have a delegation attend the hearings on bills in behalf of the machine owners of the state.

WEATHER FORECAST

Cloudy and warmer tonight; Sunday rain and warmer. Fresh east winds.